

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

formulating a discovery information query;

sending said discovery information query to an extensible markup language (XML)-based search engine to search for discovery information of at least one network device.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising retrieving discovery information from a discovery document on the at least one network device.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising manipulating the retrieved discovery information.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising displaying the manipulated discovery information.

5. A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a machine, cause said machine to perform operations comprising:
searching for discovery information of at least one network device using an extensible markup language (XML)-based search engine.

1 6. The machine-readable medium of claim 5 further comprising formulating
2 a discovery information query to be sent to the XML-based search engine.

1 7. The machine-readable medium of claim 5 further comprising retrieving
2 discovery information from a discovery document on the network device.

1 8. The machine-readable medium of claim 7 further comprising
2 manipulating the retrieved discovery information.

1 9. The machine-readable medium of claim 8 further comprising displaying
2 the manipulated discovery information.

1 10. A system comprising:
2 means for searching for discovery information of at least one network device
3 using an extensible markup language (XML)-based search engine.

1 11. The system of claim 10 further comprising means for formulating a
2 discovery information query to be sent to the XML-based search engine.

1 12. The system of claim 10 further comprising means for retrieving
2 discovery information from a discovery document on the network device.

1 13. The system of claim 12 further comprising means for manipulating the
2 retrieved discovery information.

1 14. The system of claim 13 further comprising means for displaying the
2 manipulated discovery information.

1 15. An apparatus comprising:
2 a network device including XML based discovery information.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said XML based discovery
2 information is in the form of an XML file stored on said network device.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the network device is a router.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the network device is a switch.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the network device is a server.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the network device is a computer.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the network device is a printer.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the network device manages other
2 network devices.

